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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1536  
INFO RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0161  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 7491  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1695  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 5682  
RUEHKF/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 7261  
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 3338  
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 1779  
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2914  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 003873

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/06/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PK](#)

SUBJECT: THE NAWAZ FACTOR CONTINUED: RETURN SCENARIOS

REF: (A) LAHORE 524 (B) ISLAMABAD 3819 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary. There are four scenarios regarding former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's return to Pakistan, which now seems likely September 1

[1](#)2. (C) Our contacts in Nawaz's party, the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), confirm that the party is organizing a massive road caravan to esc

[1](#)3. (C) The government is taking several precautionary measures against Nawaz's return. In the past few days the police have arrested approxima

[1](#)4. The press also reports that the government is pre-positioning a brigade to deal with expected crowds/demonstrations. The Accountability Cou

Delay

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[1](#)5. (C) There are still those, like Pakistan Muslim League President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, who believe that Nawaz will not risk arrest or c

Unimpeded Return

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[1](#)6. (C) Some Musharraf advisors are urging that Nawaz be allowed to return unimpeded. They argue that PML-N's party structure has been deterior

[1](#)7. (C) This would be the most difficult option for Musharraf to swallow. It would permit the man whom he believed tried to kill him return des

Arrest

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[1](#)8. (C) Nawaz has been convicted on hijacking and corruption charges; there are additional pending cases against him and his brother. Fearing a

[1](#)9. (C) Musharraf's supporters fear that arrest might turn Nawaz into "another Mandela." However, PML-N is equally concerned that arresting Naw

Deportation

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[1](#)10. (C) The media and virtually all of our sources indicate that the government is planning to deport the Sharifs on arrival. This will put th

[1](#)11. (C) The degree of street violence would depend on how well the government controls its police/security forces and avoids clashes under the

[1](#)2 (C) Comment: We believe that a public announcement of a Musharraf-Bhutto deal would go a long way toward lessening the downsides of Nawaz's  
PATTERSON